

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to a connection for the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of ~~the connection for the~~ at least one communication device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of ~~the connection for the~~ at least one communication device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises receiving signaling information via the voice network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises receiving information via the data network.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium capable of configuring a computer to perform a method of managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communications manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the method performed by the unified communication manager comprising:

receiving a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

configuring one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to a ~~connection for~~ the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of ~~the connection for~~ the at least one communication device.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of ~~the connection~~ for the at least one communication device.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises receiving signaling information via the voice network.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 5, wherein configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises receiving information via the data network.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing communication devices associated with a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, the unified communication manager comprising:

means for receiving a message from a user containing at least a request to configure at least one of the communication devices;

means for configuring one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to a connection for the at least one communication device based on information in the message; and

means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification indicating the configuration of ~~the connection for~~ the at least one communication device.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for transmitting to the user the notification comprises:

means for determining whether the user is currently connected to the instant messaging service; and

means for transmitting to the user an instant message that includes notification of the configuration of ~~the connection~~ for the at least one communication device.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises means for receiving signaling information via the voice network.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for configuring ~~a connection~~ one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt comprises means for receiving information via the data network.

13. (Previously presented) A unified communication manager for managing communications of a user based on using an instant messaging service, comprising:

means for receiving a message from a data network reflecting one or more rules for establishing telephone calls to a user;

means for configuring a connection for establishing the telephone calls to the user in accordance with the rules, including forwarding calls when necessary to one or more terminals associated with the user based on stored user profile information; and

means for transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the connection.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the message from the user comprises receiving an instant message over the data network from the user through the instant messaging service.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the message from the user comprises receiving a call over the voice network from the user.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
downloading to at least one of the communications devices associated with the user code for interfacing with the at least one unified communications manager.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for managing communication devices associated with a user for terminating connections over a voice network and a data network using at least one unified communication manager and an instant messaging service, wherein the at least one unified communication manager is connected to both the voice network and the data network, said method comprising:

receiving a call from the user over the voice network at a speech processor;

identifying a request to configure at least one of the communication devices associated with the user based on information in the call;

forwarding the request to the at least one unified communication manager;

configuring one or more rules for responding to a communication attempt to-a connection for the at least one communication device based on the information in the call; and

transmitting to the user, through a real-time communication channel that is established by the instant messaging service, a notification that indicates the configuration of the ~~connection~~ for the at least one communication device.
